

Appl. No. 10/737,307
Atty. Docket No. 9455
Amdt. dated 1/9/2006
Reply to Office Action of 10/07/2006
Customer No. 27752

Claim Amendments

1. (Currently amended) An absorbent article comprising a topsheet, a backsheet, and an absorbent core disposed between the topsheet and the backsheet, the topsheet having a first side and a second side, the first side being a body-facing side and the second side being in fluid communication with the absorbent core, said topsheet further comprising:
 - a. a first relatively hydrophobic ~~component~~ web and a second relatively hydrophilic ~~component~~ nonwoven web;
 - b. said relatively hydrophilic ~~component~~ nonwoven web extending through said relatively hydrophobic component and being disposed on both of said sides of said topsheet; and
 - c. wherein the first side of the topsheet comprises a plurality of discrete tufts comprising fibers from said relatively hydrophilic nonwoven web; and
 - d. wherein said absorbent article exhibits a rewet value of less than about 94 mg, and a fluid acquisition rate of at least about 0.10 ml/sec when tested by the Gush Acquisition and Rewet Test Method.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of Claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein the relatively hydrophobic web is a polymer film.
5. Cancelled
6. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of Claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein said plurality of discrete tufts is uniformly distributed on said laminate web.
7. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of Claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein said fibers of either said relatively hydrophilic web or said relatively hydrophobic web comprise

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polymers selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester, and blends thereof.

8. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of Claim [[3]] 1, wherein said fibers of either said relatively hydrophilic web or said relatively hydrophobic web comprise bicomponent fibers.

9. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of Claim [[3]] 1, wherein said fibers of either said relatively hydrophilic web or said relatively hydrophobic web comprise non-round fibers.

10. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1, wherein said absorbent article exhibits a rewet value of less than about 50 mg, and a fluid acquisition rate of at least about 0.50 ml/sec when tested by the Gush Acquisition and Rewet Test Method.

11. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1, wherein said absorbent article exhibits a rewet value of less than about 25 mg, and a fluid acquisition rate of at least about 0.50 ml/sec when tested by the Gush Acquisition and Rewet Test Method.

12. (Currently amended) An absorbent article comprising a topsheet, a backsheet, and an absorbent core disposed between the topsheet and the backsheet, the topsheet having a first side and a second side, the first side being a body-facing side and the second side being in fluid communication with the absorbent core, said topsheet further comprising:

- a. a relatively hydrophobic component and a second relatively hydrophilic component;
- b. said relatively hydrophilic component extending through said relatively hydrophobic component and being disposed on both sides of said topsheet;
- c. wherein the first side of the topsheet comprises a plurality of discrete tufts comprising fibers from said spunbond nonwoven web;
- d. wherein said relatively hydrophilic component comprises a spunbond nonwoven web; and

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- e. wherein said absorbent article exhibits a rewet value of less than about 94 mg when tested by the Rewet Test Method, and a fluid acquisition rate of at least about 0.10 ml/sec when tested by the Fluid Acquisition Test Method.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 12, wherein said relatively hydrophobic component is a nonwoven web.

15. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 12, wherein said relatively hydrophobic component is a polymer film.

16. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 12, wherein said fibers of the relatively hydrophilic spunbond web comprise polymers selected from the group consisting of polyester, and blends thereof.

17. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 14, wherein said fibers of either the relatively hydrophilic spunbond web or the relatively hydrophobic web comprise bicomponent fibers.

18. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 14, wherein said fibers of either the relatively hydrophilic spunbond web or the relatively hydrophobic web comprise non-round fibers.

19. (Original) An absorbent article comprising a topsheet, a backsheet, and an absorbent core disposed between the topsheet and the backsheet, the topsheet having a first side and a second side, the first side being a body-facing side and the second side being in fluid communication with the absorbent core, said topsheet further comprising:

- a. a first relatively hydrophobic component and a second relatively hydrophilic component;
- b. said relatively hydrophilic component being disposed on both sides of said topsheet;

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- c. said relatively hydrophilic component comprises a carded nonwoven web; and
 - d. wherein said absorbent article exhibits a rewet value of less than about 50 mg when tested by the Rewet Test Method, and a fluid acquisition rate of at least about 1.0 ml/sec when tested by the Fluid Acquisition Test Method.
20. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 19, wherein the first side of the topsheet comprises a plurality of discrete tufts comprising fibers from said carded nonwoven web.
21. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 19, wherein said relatively hydrophobic component is a nonwoven web.
22. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 19, wherein said relatively hydrophobic component is a polymer film.
23. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 19, wherein said fibers of the relatively hydrophilic carded nonwoven web comprise polymers selected from the group consisting of polyester, and blends thereof.
24. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 21, wherein said fibers of either the relatively hydrophilic carded web or the relatively hydrophobic web comprise bicomponent fibers.
25. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 21, wherein said fibers of either the relatively hydrophilic carded web or the relatively hydrophobic web comprise non-round fibers.
26. (Original) An absorbent article comprising a topsheet, a backsheet, and an absorbent core disposed between the topsheet and the backsheet, the topsheet having a first side and a second side, the first side being a body-facing side and the second side being in fluid communication with the absorbent core, said topsheet further comprising a nonwoven web and tufted regions, said tufted regions comprising first, second and third zones, each said zone being characterized by the zone fiber orientation, wherein said first

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and third zones comprise fibers having portions orientated substantially parallel to a plane of the topsheet, and said second zone is intermediate and adjacent to said first and third zones, said second zone comprising fibers having substantially no portions oriented substantially parallel to said plane of the topsheet.

27. (Original) An absorbent article comprising a topsheet, a backsheet, and an absorbent core disposed between the topsheet and the backsheet, the topsheet having a first side and a second side, the first side being a body-facing side and the second side being in fluid communication with the absorbent core, said topsheet further comprising a nonwoven web comprising tufts, said tufts at least partially originating in said second side and extending to a distal body-facing portion, the distal body-facing portion being relatively hydrophobic with respect to the second side.

28. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 27 wherein said distal body-facing portion of said tufts is rendered hydrophobic by a lotion composition disposed thereon.

29. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 28 wherein said lotion composition comprises a hydrophilic/lipophilic balance (HLB) of less than or equal to 7.

30. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 28 wherein said lotion composition comprises petrolatum.